



September 29, 2009

Mr. Peter DeVries, Chair
Washington State Building Code Council
PO Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

Mr. Chairman and Council Members:

I am Tonia Sorrell-Neal with the Washington State Conference of Mason Contractors. We represent masonry subcontractors statewide. Our representation of the industry accounted for over \$100 million in business volume in 2008. We are a signatory contractor organization representing employers as small as two employees and as large as 200 employees. Like many of our construction peers, we are currently suffering through the economic downturn with our revenue down 40-50% this year.

We support the previous comments by Mr. Tom Young and are also speaking in opposition to the proposed mass wall amendment to the nonresidential energy code, Log # 09-031. The nonresidential construction market is very important to our industry. It is the primary source of our business volume and these overly restrictive regulations would damage the masonry industry in that it would require additional insulation in areas where there may not be a need or in fact may work against the heating and cooling system.

We are requesting a thorough economic impact analysis of this proposed amendment be conducted in order to provide evidence that the code change request has a positive effect on the constructed building while not driving additional unnecessary costs to the construction of the building given the current state of the economy. We estimate the impact to be very significant to our small business owners and employees specifically to our industry.

This proposed amendment over-reaches going too far in increasing masonry wall insulation requirements without evidence of working for the consumer. We ask that you further study the impact of this proposed regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tonia Sorrell-Neal
Conference Director